

Stephanie Kost

From: MINOAN624@bellsouth.net
Sent: Saturday, August 28, 2004 11:41 PM
To: Michael Powell
Subject: Calling cards (TCC 24/7)

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SEP - 7 2004

Dear Mr. Powell,

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

I would like to inform you of a fraud card that I have purchased. This cards does not even give you have the minutes it claims it does. In my case, it claims that it gives you 144 minutes to Jordan. Well, it only gave me 45 minutes for a total price of \$13.00

When I call the customer service to get credit, they told me that is the way the card works and there are extra hidden charges involved. Please they need to be stopped. they cannot cheat people and get away with it. Here is the link to this card. <http://www.pinonsale.com/Details.asp?Product=708>

Thank you so much for your help and for stopping unlawful practices of such companies.

Best regards,

Nader Allan
404-348-7532

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Stephanie Kost

From: Eldridge, Mark [mark.eldridge2@korea.army.mil]
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2004 5:07 PM
To: Michael Powell
Subject: FW: calling card

I can't imagine any reason why you would do this! As a military person station overseas, I rely on my card to call home and can't handle a 20% increase. You need to re-think this one!

[Eldridge, Mark] -----Original Message-----

From: Becky Flinders [mailto:moxie418@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2004 9:09 AM
To: Eldridge, Mark
Subject: calling card

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Federal Communications Commission
 Office of the Secretary

Hon:

I knew I probably wouldn't remember to ask you about this in the morn. Have you heard anything about this? I saw this while at a military wife site tonight. I hope it's not true! I love you.

Prepaid calling cards threatened

IP: 12.23.209.195

Posted on August 24, 2004 at 02:33:10 PM by [Laura](#)

I wanted to draw your attention to a critical issue that will affect military families' ability to talk to their loved ones overseas - the cost of prepaid calling cards.

This past Saturday, The Savannah Morning News ran an editorial discussing a proposal that is in front of the Federal Communications Commission to substantially increase the costs of prepaid calling cards that are sold at military exchanges.

The FCC is considering forcing calling card providers to add additional access fees to these cards. If passed, the FCC's rules will drive the cost of pre-paid calling cards up by as much as 20% on military families who can least afford it!

With the recent deployments and military action in Iraq and Afghanistan, the FCC could not pick a worse time to raise rates on prepaid calling cards. Military families rely on these cards to talk to loved ones who are stationed all around the world.

I urge you to contact Chairman Powell at the FCC and tell him that raising rates on prepaid calling cards will hurt military families. Below is the editorial from the Savannah Morning News and here is the contact information for Chairman Powell: Michael.Powell@fcc.gov or 202-418-1000. Please contact him and let him know this is a bad idea!

Squeezing soldiers (Editorial)

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Savannah Morning News, August 21, 2004

Cell phones, e-mail and other forms of improved communications make it possible for people in almost any corner of the world to keep in contact. Unfortunately, the federal government may put the squeeze on members of the U.S. military who use prepaid calling cards to reach out and touch their loved ones.

Talk about a wrong number.

This matter hasn't gotten much attention in the mainstream press. But in publications such as the Army Times and Marine Corps Times, a proposal to raise the calling costs to America's soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors is getting considerable ink.

To them, quite understandably, this is a big deal. It's also a bad deal in terms of military morale.

Tens of thousands of service members who are deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere around the globe have been using prepaid phone cards to maintain a vital, personal link with families back home. Letters, of course, are always nice. So are packages. But there's nothing like the voice of a spouse, a child or a loved one to raise spirits of the men and women in uniform - and, to remind them what they are fighting for.

Some shortsighted bureaucrats, sadly, don't see it that way.

The Federal Communications Commission is considering a measure that would require AT&T, the sole supplier of prepaid cards to exchanges and other military-affiliated venues such as the USO, to add additional access fees to the prices of these cards.

For two years, AT&T hasn't charged these costs, which would go into a universal fund that subsidizes phone service in rural areas and for low-income users. The savings have been substantial - an estimated \$355 million over the past few years.

Some local phone providers believe this policy cheats them out of revenue for providing access to phone lines within their states. But that's a dubious claim.

Prepaid calls generally consist of two calls - one from the card holder to a service platform, then a call from the platform to the person the caller is trying to reach. Each call is usually routed across state lines, rather than within state lines. This is apparently true even when both callers are within the same state.

Members of America's military like to phone home. Each year, they typically rack up more than 1 billion minutes of long-distance calls on AT&T cards sold on military bases, company officials have said.

If the FCC forces AT&T to add access charges to the costs of these cards, prices could go up by as much as 20 percent. That means soldiers with the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort

Stewart, expected to redeploy to Iraq, would have to dig more deeply into their pockets while digging into their jobs a half a world away.

AT&T has asked the FCC for a formal waiver of access charges. The commission should grant it. Many military families already struggle to make ends meet, and they make personal sacrifices to keep this country strong. Don't add to their burden.

Unfortunately, early signals from the FCC aren't promising. According to Reuters news service, FCC Chairman Michael Powell supports jacking up charges. So does at least one other commissioner on the five-member panel. That means the FCC is just one vote away from sticking it to the military.

The word is that the agency won't press the matter until after the November presidential election. Timing, after all, is everything. So for now, the calling card issue has been placed on hold.

Here's one suggestion. Colin Powell, the secretary of state, should pick up his phone at the State Department. He should call his son, the FCC chairman, just across town. It's a local call, so he won't have to pay extra.

The elder Mr. Powell, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under the first President Bush, should remind the younger Mr. Powell what it means for service people to keep in touch with their loved ones, especially during wartime. He must have forgotten.

The competition among telecommunications companies is fierce. But Americans who are serving their country, often putting their lives on the line, shouldn't get caught in the crossfire.

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<http://mail.yahoo.com>

03-133

Stephanie Kost

From: Louise [lousus@JoiMail.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 07, 2004 9:27 PM
To: KAQuinn

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Subject: Pre-Paid Telephones

This is to let you know that I have attempted many times to telephone 1-800-696-6322 to request that the administration does NOT allow the pre-paid costs for telephones to increase. The costs today are extremely too high, especially for those of us who are retired.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Louise Suszczynski

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AUG 24 2004

Federal Communications Commission
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8/11/2004